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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, JANUARY 30, 1998

APPLICATION OF

BELL ATLANTIC-VIRGINIA, INC.

CASE NO. PUC980007

To classify its Prepaid Calling
Services as Competitive Pursuant
to Paragraph 4 of its Plan for
Alternative Regulation

ORDER FOR NOTICE AND HEARING

On November 6, 1997, Bell Atlantic-Virginia, Inc. ("BA-VA") filed its application to classify its Prepaid Calling Service as competitive under Paragraph 4 of BA-VA's Plan for Alternative Regulation ("Plan"). BA-VA furnished notice of this application to the Attorney General's Division of Consumer Counsel and to Virginia's certificated Interexchange Carriers ("IXC"). The filed tariffs took effect on December 8, 1997.

Plan Paragraph 4.A.2 requires that for classification to the competitive category "notice must be given to all affected parties, and a hearing must be conducted in accordance with § 56-235.5E of the Code of Virginia."¹ The Commission finds that the

¹ Subsequent to the adoption of BA-VA's alternative regulatory plan, § 56-235.5E has been amended to permit the Commission to make the determination of classifying a service as "Competitive" upon provision of the opportunity for a hearing (rather than only after hearing). However, BA-VA has not moved to change its plan to incorporate this modified standard.

affected parties are Virginia's certificated telephone companies. Notice to those persons will satisfy Paragraph 4.A.2 of the Plan.

The Commission is of the opinion that this matter should be docketed, that the Commission Staff should investigate the application and report its findings, and that a hearing should be scheduled for the receipt of evidence on the application.

Accordingly, IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) This matter is docketed as Case No. PUC980007.

(2) A public hearing on whether to classify BA-VA's Prepaid Calling Service as competitive is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 1998 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia.

(3) Pursuant to the attested paragraph below, the Clerk of the Commission shall mail a copy of this order to Virginia's certificated IXCs, to Virginia's certificated Local Exchange Companies ("both incumbent and competitive") and to the Division of Consumer Counsel, Office of the Attorney General.

(4) On or before February 26, 1998, any person desiring to participate in the proceeding as a Protestant, as defined by the Commission's Procedural Rules, shall file with the Clerk of the Commission an original and fifteen (15) copies of a notice of protest and serve a copy upon BA-VA's counsel, Warner F. Brundage, Jr., Esquire, P.O. Box 27241, Richmond, Virginia 23261.

(5) On or before March 5, 1998, all protestants shall file an original and fifteen (15) copies of (i) all direct testimony and exhibits the Commission is requested to consider, and (ii) a

Protest, and shall serve a copy of each on the Applicant and on any other Protestant.

(6) On or before March 12, 1998, the Commission Staff shall file an original and fifteen (15) copies of all direct testimony and exhibits it deems necessary for the Commission to consider in this proceeding and serve a copy on BA-VA and on each Protestant.

(7) On or before February 19, 1998, BA-VA shall file all material it deems necessary to support its proposed classification and serve a copy on Staff and, between February 26, 1997, and March 2, 1997, serve a copy on each Protestant filing a notice of protest.

(8) Objections to Interrogatories or Requests for the Production of Documents shall be made within five (5) calendar days of receipt and responses to Interrogatories or Requests for the Production of Documents shall be made within ten (10) calendar days of receipt; otherwise, the remaining provisions of Rule 6:4 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure shall apply.

(9) Any person desiring to comment in writing on the matters to be considered in the application may do so by sending those comments on or before March 5, 1998, referring to Case No. PUC980007, to the Clerk of the Commission, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218.